

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Reissue Application of:

Tomowaki TAKAHASHI

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

U.S. Serial No.: 09/766,486

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Filed: January 19, 2001

(Reissue Application for U.S. Patent No. 5,861,997 issued January 19, 1999)

For: CATADIOPTIC REDUCTION PROJECTION OPTICAL SYSTEM AND
EXPOSURE APPARATUS HAVING THE SAME

**CONSENT OF ASSIGNEE TO FILING OF REISSUE APPLICATION
AND OFFER TO SURRENDER ORIGINAL PATENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Petitioner, Tadao Tsuruta, represents that I am a Vice President of the Assignee identified below owning the entire interest in the above-identified patent and am authorized by the Assignee to assent to the filing of the subject application for reissue of the subject U.S. Letters Patent 5,861,997 and to sign on behalf of the Assignee.

CONSENT OF ASSIGNEE AND STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §3.73(b)

Nikon Corporation, presently the assignee of the entire interest including all rights in the above-identified application, having a principal place of business at Fuji Bldg., 2-3, Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8331 Japan, hereby consents to reissue of U.S. Letters Patent No. 5,861,997. The Assignment to Nikon Corporation was recorded at Reel 007623, Frame 0592, for application Serial No. 08/515,631 filed August 16, 1995. The evidentiary documents have been reviewed and it is certified that to the best of the assignee's knowledge and belief, title is in the assignee and the undersigned has the authority to act on the behalf of the assignee, Nikon Corporation.

OFFER TO SURRENDER

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.178, Nikon Corporation hereby offers to surrender original U.S. Letters Patent 5,861,997.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: March 13, 2001

Tadao Tsuruta

By: Tadao Tsuruta
Title: Executive Vice President
NIKON CORPORATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Tomowaki TAKAHASHI

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For: CATADIOPTIC REDUCTION PROJECTION OPTICAL SYSTEM AND
EXPOSURE APPARATUS HAVING THE SAME

REISSUE APPLICATION DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.175

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

I, Tomowaki TAKAHASHI, declare that:

1. My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.
2. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is described and claimed in U.S. Letters Patent No. 5,861,997 ("the '997 patent") granted on January 19, 1999, and for which invention I solicit a reissue patent on the invention entitled CATADIOPTIC REDUCTION PROJECTION OPTICAL SYSTEM AND EXPOSURE APPARATUS HAVING THE SAME, the specification of which was filed on January 19, 2001 as reissue application number 09/766,486.

3. I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above.

4. I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

5. I hereby claim priority benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119, of Japanese patent application 6-198350, filed August 23, 1994 in the Japanese Patent Office.

6. I believe the original '997 patent to be wholly or partly inoperative or invalid by reason of claiming more or less than I had the right to claim in the patent.

7. With respect to broadening the claims, one error being relied upon as a basis for the reissue is that issued claim 1 is unduly narrow in reciting a "second imaging optical system including a concave reflecting mirror for reflecting a light beam split by said beam splitting means, said second imaging optical system having a positive refractive power." Accordingly, claims 15 and 30 have been drafted to recite "a catadioptric imaging optical sub-system in an optical path between said first dioptric imaging optical sub-system and the second surface, comprising a concave mirror and a catadioptric optical axis" without the positive refractive power. An additional error relied upon as a basis for the reissue is that claim 1 is unduly narrow in reciting a "beam splitting means for splitting at least part of a light beam from said first imaging optical system." Accordingly, claims 15 and 30 have been drafted to remove the limitation as to the beam splitting means.

8. All errors, including those listed above, which are being corrected up to the time of filing of this reissue declaration arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the applicant (37 CFR §1.175(a)(2)).

9. I hereby appoint the attorneys and/or agents of Staas & Halsey LLP under USPTO Customer No. 21,171 to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Please send all correspondence related to the above-identified application to the following address:



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

10. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first or sole inventor: Tomowaki TAKAHASHI

Inventor's Signature: Tomowaki Takahashi Date: Mar. 12, 2001

Country of Citizenship: Japan

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